

The Knoxville Independent

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Your Flag and My Flag

By WILBUR D. NESBIT

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And oh, how much it holds—
Your land and my land—secure within its folds
Your heart and my heart beat quicker at the sight
Sun-kissed and wind-torn, red and blue and white.
The one Flag—the great Flag—the Flag for me and you—
Gladly all else leave—the red and white and blue.

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And how it fits today
In your land and my land and half a world away!
Removal and blood-red the stripes forever gleam;
Tarnish and stain and blue—the good forehead gleam.

Stripes and stars blue, with stars to gleam white—
The golden gates of the day's shiner through the night.

Your Flag and my Flag! To every star and stripe
The drums beat as hearts beat and flares shrilly pipe.
Your Flag and my Flag—a blessing in the sky;
Your hope and my hope—it never hid a lie!
Hence land and sea and land and half the world around,
Oh! Glory hails our glad salute and ripples to the sound!



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"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

Conditions More Serious.

Washington.—Food conditions in Finland and Northern Russia are becoming more serious, advises to the State Department indicated. There has been no distribution of bread from the regular stations at Helsinki in ten days, and several other ports in Finland are reported practically without bread.

Seizure of Cables Is Opposed.

New York.—The Commercial Pacific Cable Company, allied with the Commercial Cable Company, asked for an injunction in the Federal Court, restraining Postmaster General Burleson from further control of its 10,000 miles of cable between San Francisco and China, Japan and the Philippine Islands. Violation of international law, by Burleson is charged in the complaint, which asserted that the United States had not obtained consent to the seizure from the nations upon whose territory the cables land.

Proud of His Name.

New York.—New York, the metropolis of the world, has no family of the surname of Pershing, a search since the beginning of war has disclosed. Pershing as a Christian name, however, is going to stand forth for generations. Statistics show that on an average of ten pair of proud parents daily are conferring that appellation on their male children. For the girls, Victory and Lorraine lead.

Passengers Are Searched.

New York.—The 400 passengers on the Danish steamship Oscar II., which arrived here, were searched both at Halifax, and at the entrance of this port, it was learned. There was a suspicion that German refugees might be trying to get into America, a custom house official said, and the authorities thought also that some of the minor royal refugees from Germany might be on board in disguise.

Labor at Peace Till War Ends.

Elimination of strikes and lockouts in Minnesota during the war was directed by the state public safety commission. The executive council of the State Federation of Labor and executive board of the Minnesota Employers' association have agreed to arbitrate all disputes. The street railway trouble was declared on verge of final settlement by arbitration.

Will Give Whole Time to Labor.

Prof. William Howard Taft, appointed by President Wilson a member of the labor commission for mediation of disputes between employees and employers engaged in war work, was granted leave of absence by the Yale corporation for the current and succeeding collegiate year to permit him to give his attention to the work of the commission.



1—British mine sweepers clearing the North sea of German mines. 2—American soldiers who were wounded in the St. Mihiel salient photographed on their arrival in New York. 3—Dr. Joseph Perakoff, representative of the all-Russian government, who has just come to the United States.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

President Sails for France, But Does Not Tell Specifically What He Plans to Do.

WILL BE WARMLY WELCOMED

Trial of Former Kaiser for Murder Seems Assured—Liebknecht and Spartacus Group Fighting Ebert's Government for Control in Germany.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

With the cheers of thousands of civilians and returning soldiers ringing in his ears, President Wilson sailed away for Europe on December 4, on his mission of world peace-making. As the good ship George Washington made its way out of New York harbor all the shore batteries and war vessels joined in the presidential salute and off quarantine the steamship met its convoy, the battleship Pennsylvania and five destroyers. It was a pleasant coincidence that the presidential party met several transports thronged with American troops just sent home from England and France.

Mr. Wilson, it was expected, would land at Brest about December 12 and proceed at once to Paris, where the residence of Prince Murat has been prepared for him. The other delegates and most of the rest of the large party will be housed in the Hotel Crillon.

The president is assured of a warm and even enthusiastic welcome in France, Great Britain and Italy. His arrival in Europe will be scarcely less welcome to the people of what were the central empires. The governments of those states, distracted and disheveled, look to Mr. Wilson to mollify the entente powers and obtain for them less rigorous peace terms than the crimes of the Teutons have deserved. Whether he will be able to accomplish this, or even will attempt it, remains to be seen. The president has not taken into his confidence the congress or the people of America, possibly because he could not guess, prior to conferences with the representatives of the entente nations, how far he might dare to go in the way of humanitarianism. They are willing and eager to confer with him on all matters and doubtless will defer to his judgment in many things, but they have their own very certain ideas as to the treatment that should be accorded the German nation and people.

One of these ideas is that the ex-kaiser must be put on trial for murder and, if found guilty—the "if" might as well be "when"—must be adequately punished. The best legal authorities of England and France agree that William can be extradited from Holland, and there is no doubt that in any event enough pressure could be brought to induce the Dutch to give him up. From the beginning of the war the English and French have determined that William should ultimately be brought to justice personally, and there is ample reason for the depression from which the deposed ruler is said to be suffering at Amerongen. The former crown prince, who, by the way, says he has not yet renounced his rights to the throne, may also be put on trial. He, in his Dutch retreat, has been telling how he and his father were forced into all their outrageous actions by the military clique and Bethmann-Holweg. He also tries to shift to others the blame for the terrific defeats his army sustained.

Another fixed intention of the entente powers is to compel Germany to pay to the limit of her capacity. Her ability to make financial reparation for the damage her armies have done is undoubted. The measures to be adopted by the allies are yet unsettled. Germany's state-owned mineral, coal and potash deposits and railways alone are worth vastly more than the claims of the allies will amount to, and it is not unlikely that those will be seized. In money the country is almost as rich as it was before the war.

This question of reparation brings up the matter of a commercial boycott. Many authorities assert that the only way Germany can pay will be by obtaining raw materials from the countries she has been fighting and selling her products in their markets. Very likely the peace conference will declare against the boycott idea, but it will not be so easy to persuade the peoples of the allied nations to buy German-made goods. Most of them would prefer to see Germany reduced to the position she has earned for herself, to have such money as can be taken from her, and to let the rest of the financial reparation go by the board. Austria, too, is making the loud wail for raw materials and markets. Dr. Franz Klein, who will represent at the peace conference the so-called Austrian republic, provided he is admitted, is relying especially on America to be "fair" and to solve the troubles of the late empire so that all the republics can live in peace and prosperity. Some job!

Conditions in Germany are almost as uncertain as in Russia after the fall of Kerensky. Just who or what comprises the government it is hard to say. Premier Ebert and his moderate socialist colleagues are still the nominal rulers of Prussia, but Dr. Karl Liebknecht and his Spartacus group of socialists—the German equivalent of the bolsheviks—are vigorously fighting to get the upper hand. They are especially strong in Berlin, which is in a state of great disorder. It is reported that Liebknecht has 15,000 men well armed and is planning a terrorist revolution. He reviles Ebert for asking food from America, for since this is conditioned on the maintenance of order, it is "yielding to a capitalist effort to beat bolshevik aims." Liebknecht's organ, the Red Flag, demands the dismissal of officers and the choosing by soldiers of their leaders; the immediate arming of the revolutionary workmen and the dismantling of all other organizations; the destruction of capitalism, the annulment of war loans and the socialization of all business.

The soldiers' and workmen's councils of Germany have demanded that the ex-kaiser be tried by a German tribunal, which would probably be the best he could hope for.

In many parts of Germany there is swift reaction against the bolshevik movement, and it threatens to grow into a counter-revolution, with the possible restoration of the monarchy. This is fostered by many officers and supported by certain units of the army. That it will go far seems quite unlikely. The soldiers and workmen generally, however, seem disposed to support the Ebert government rather than the Spartacus group.

The leaders of the Bavarian republic have induced the Berliners to demand the resignation of Doctor Solf, whose retention as foreign secretary has been one of the puzzles to outsiders, and to exclude Mathias Erzberger from the peace negotiations.

The late leaders of Germany and Austria are quarreling among themselves concerning who was responsible for starting the war, and the present leaders are demanding that this question be settled by an inquiry and the guilty ones punished. How much chance there is of a fair investigation is revealed by the fact, just brought to light, that the German foreign office burned all the documents in the archives that might place the responsibility for the war on the German government. It is interesting to note that Doctor Solf has proposed that a neutral commission inquire into the origin of the war.

The allied armies of occupation continue their march into German territory and are meeting with no resistance and little trouble of any kind. The Germans are not keeping up to schedule in complying with the armistice terms, but say this is impossible in some instances. For instance, they cannot gather the required number of locomotives, and the airplanes called for are being given up where they are instead of being collected and surrendered in a bunch. The fast of the Hun submarines have been turned over to the allied fleet and the German navy, whose personnel was denounced by

Kamir Beatty as beneath contempt, is now no more.

General Dickman's American army has its headquarters at Treves, and from it reports come that flatly contradict the idea that the Germans are short of food and clothing. The people in the occupied districts are studiously indifferent to the invaders or openly eager to keep up their trade. The French and British have been moving forward in their zones with little incident.

Among the loot already recovered from the Germans is the \$80,000,000 taken from the Russian treasury. The Huns also have returned a rich art collection that was stolen from St. Quentin, and other paintings taken from Valenciennes.

The all-Russian government at Omsk appears to be gaining in stability, but the bolsheviks have not let up in their trouble-making. An eruption of Reds into Estonia has alarmed the government there, murdering, burning and plundering being unhindered. Livonia also has been invaded by them. A call for help by sea was sent out, and a few days ago a British fleet arrived at Libau. The vessels probably will proceed to Revel and land men to stop the slaughter. The bolshevik authorities in western Russia have turned back 1,500,000 Russian soldiers who have been prisoners in Germany, and it was reported that the men had seized four ships at Danzig which the British Red Cross had obtained from Germany for the housing of prisoners.

The Ukrainians and the Poles decline to stop fighting. They are chasing each other back and forth in territory which both claim, and it is difficult to say which has the advantage. Recently the Poles occupied Brest-Litovsk, the town where Germany negotiated the peace treaties with Russia and the Ukraine.

Before President Wilson left the country he delivered his address to congress reassembled for the short session. He paid glowing tribute to the forces of America, military and civilian, which helped win the war, and said he was going across to interpret his ideas of world peace because he considered that was his bounden duty. But he did not give any specific information as to his plans, nor did he so much as mention his colleagues on the peace delegation. In dealing with domestic matters, the president said he was convinced it would be wrong to turn the railroads back to private ownership under present conditions, but that unless congress solved the question in the near future he would relinquish the roads. Other matters that he asked congress to act upon quickly were the revenue bill, the navy building plan and woman suffrage. Secretary Daniels' plan for the navy is for steady and rapid increase of the fleet, for which he asks about \$434,000,000. The estimates submitted to congress by Secretary Baker provide for a regular army of approximately 500,000, but certain items are included that leave the question of the strength of the army open until after the conclusion of peace.

The American troops already are coming back from Europe, the first to arrive, except for the wounded, being the aviation units that were training in England.

As was expected, the president appointed Congressman Carter Glass of Virginia to succeed Mr. McAdoo as secretary of the treasury. He has been chairman of the house committee on banking and currency and his selection for the cabinet position meets with general approval.

While the rest of the world is turning to the ways of peace, Chile and Peru are preparing for war. The ancient quarrel over the provinces of Tacna and Arica has been revived, the people have been insulting and provoking each other and the situation is critical. The armies of the two countries have been ordered to mobilize, and unless wiser counsels prevail hostilities will follow before long. The United States has no intention of intervening in the squabble, but a number of our warships have been dispatched to Valparaiso to protect American interests.

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